

EXCERPTS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

BIG BROTHERS DINNER HONORING WALTER WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, D.C.

NOVEMBER 9, 1967

I am delighted to be here tonight and would have  
come even without an invitation. But let me tell you  
that I didn't have much choice in the matter. Drew  
Pearson's invitation contained the information that my  
boss had told him to tell me to come. So here I am.

The important thing about Drew Pearson is not whose  
Vice President he can borrow for the evening. He seldom  
goals around with V.P.S. - He's a president's man  
It is his compassion for the underdog -- the

under-protected, under-educated, under-loved -- that is as evident in his personal life as in his columns.

Combine that instinct for humanity with grandfatherhood, and the result is the man who has done more for Big Brotherhood in Washington and in the nation than any other *person*.

I want to say a few words about another important Washington grandfather and Big Brother in a few minutes.

But as Chairman of the President's Council on Youth Opportunity, I first ~~want~~ <sup>want</sup> to congratulate each and every one of you Big Brothers for the enormous contribution of time and energy you have put into salvaging young lives.

The number of fatherless families in this country is rising, especially in communities where opportunity is also limited by poverty and racial discrimination. We are going to pay a high price in undiscovered human potential, in juvenile delinquency, and psychological disorder if the

community does not reach out to those injured children with some substitute for fatherhood.

↳ I understand you have already reached 450 fatherless boys in Washington alone, and I can only urge that you keep up the good work.

↳ The young people of this country depend very heavily on voluntary support from business groups, labor unions, churches, clubs and private individuals. Ninety 90% percent of the time and effort that goes into youth programs in America comes from private sources.

↳ I regret to say, however, that this private support is not always ~~usually~~ concentrated where it is needed most.

↳ The Little League teams, the young peoples' societies, and other community-sponsored recreational activities usually serve those neighborhoods where the schools are reasonably good, the families stable and prosperous, and the play space adequate.

↳ Not enough of it reaches the 12.5 million American youngsters who live in the inner city crowded ~~urban ghettos~~ or rural slums -- the ones whose schools are ~~so~~ well to often inadequate...the ones most likely to come from broken homes...the ones whose cultural horizons are confined to the activities of the street.

↳ The federal government, through project Head Start, Upward Bound, the Neighborhood Youth Corps, the Job Corps has been trying to give those kids a chance.

↳ Last summer the Council on Youth Opportunity did its best to open up job and recreational opportunities for deprived youth ~~children~~ by enlisting the support of city governments, military bases, and voluntary groups all over the country.

↳ But this country needs a sustained commitment to provide the very best in opportunity for every one of its young people on a year round basis.

↳ And that means more than check-book solutions for poverty of the purse.

↳ It means love and personal human engagement in the lives of ~~children~~ <sup>our young people</sup> who suffer crippling poverty of the spirit.

\* \* \*

↳ Now I want to introduce that other prominent Big Brother. Ever since I have been Vice President, I have served as a sort of unofficial, part-time mayor of Washington.

Walter  
mayor  
of  
DC

↳ I have been involved in Washington city affairs just about enough to know this city has always needed a full-time, official mayor!

↳ Now we have the best President Johnson could find anywhere in the United States -- Walter Washington.

↳ And I think this capital city -- which is the center of the fastest-growing metropolitan area in the country --

and which has more people than eleven of our states --

is on its way.

Washington, <sup>D.C.</sup> is through with part-time government --  
part-time education, part-time crime control, part-time  
planning.

And ~~Washington~~ under Walter Washington's  
leadership it will soon be through with part-time  
democracy. This city, that is so much more than a  
city, deserves representation in Congress, and I know  
Walter Washington was up on Capitol Hill fighting for it  
just this morning.

It also needs Home Rule.

I think we are going to get both, and soon. When  
we do, I predict that we are going to be ready with the  
best led city government in this country.

↳ Walter, this plaque says, "Walter Washington --  
the Walking Mayor -- a Big Brother who knows that a  
little brother never walks alone."

I am proud to have an opportunity to present it  
to you, with the warmest thanks for all you have done  
for American youngsters in the past, and with the  
greatest confidence in your future contribution to our  
capital city.

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